

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 0613Z 151433Z
ACTION EB-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, PORG, IMCO, FR' US
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH ON POLLUTION
INITIATIVE

REFS: (A) PARIS 10400; (B) PARIS 10538

1. SUMMARY: CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH ON PRESIDENTIAL
POLLUTION INITIATIVE WENT WELL. FRENCH SEEM WILLING TO
BE FLEXIBLE ON US PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS, AND SUPPORT
EXPEDITED WORK ON CREW STANDARDS AND CONTROL AND CERTIFI-
CATION. SHIP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PROPOSALS NOT DIS-
CUSSED IN DETAIL. END SUMMARY.

2. USDEL (REAR ADM. WALLACE; CROOK AND DIAMANTI, STATE;
MILLER, EMBASSY PARIS) MET APRIL 14 WITH ADM. ROCHMONT
(HEAD, FRENCH MSC DEL), AND FRENCH DEL INCLUDING GUERIN
AND MARCQ OF MERCHANT MARINE, AND QUAI REPRESENTATIVES.
CALL ON CHAPON (SYG OF MERCHANT MARINE) COULD NOT BE
SCHEDULED. MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT LUNCH VERY CORDIAL.

3. WALLACE EXPLAINED BACKGROUND AND GENERAL OUTLINE OF
US INITIATIVE AND DESCRIBED US PROPOSALS FOR IMCO ACTION.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 0613Z 151433Z

ROCHEMONT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEL'S VISIT, AND
ENDORSED US DESIRE FOR MULTILATERAL ACTION. HE SAID THAT
INITIATION OF DISCUSSIONS IN MSC QUOTE POSED PROCEDURAL
PROBLEMS UNQUOTE, BUT INDICATED THAT QUOTE WE WILL BE
UNDERSTANDING UNQUOTE.

4. ROCHEMONT STRESSED FRENCH VIEW THAT HUMAN FAILURES OR

POOR MAINTENANCE WERE THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF INCIDENTS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WORK IN IMCO WILL ACCORDINGLY FOCUS ON CREW QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTROL AND CERTIFICATION.

5. GUERIN (OF MERCHANT MARINE SECRETARIAT GENERAL) SAID THAT GOF DOES NOT OPPOSE DISCUSSION OF SHIP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION IN IMCO. NEVERTHELESS, GOF VIEWED SOLUTION TO POLLUTION PROBLEMS AS REQUIRING THE PROPER MIX OF MEASURES ON CONSTRUCTION, INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION, AND CREWS. GUERIN DID NOT GO INTO SPECIFICS OF US DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION PROPOSALS, NOR DID HE REITERATE HIS NEGATIVE POSITION REPORTED REFTEL (B). MARCQ (CHIEF OF MERCHANT MARINE'S BUREAU OF MARINE SAFETY) ALSO RAISED TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES AND RELATED CONTROL MEASURES AS QUOTE THE FIRST THING TO LOOK AT UNQUOTE.

6. GUERIN AND QUAI REP BRIEFLY ASKED HOW US INTENDED TO HANDLE IMCO PROCEDURAL RULES ON MATTERS SUCH AS ADVANCE CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS. US REPLIED THAT WE INTENDED TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS IN IMCO AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE; FRENCH DID NOT PRESS POINT FURTHER.

7. COMMENT: DEL BELIEVES CONSULTATION WITH FRENCH WAS WELL WORTHWHILE. FRENCH WERE RECEPTIVE AND OBVIOUSLY PLEASED THAT DELEGATION HAD COME TO PARIS. ALTHOUGH FRENCH DISPLAYED NO ENTHUSIASM FOR EFFORTS ON SHIP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, THEY APPEAR WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE ON US PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS.
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PAGE 03 LONDON 06132 151433Z

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Message Attributes

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